



Department of Toxic Substances Control



Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary
California Environmental
Protection Agency

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Comments Letter

Thank you for commenting on the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) draft Environmental Justice Policy. As we move forward in assisting all Californians with their environmental concerns, we realize that communities are a valued resource and help us do our jobs. We are considering all comments we received, and will continue to solicit input on this important policy.

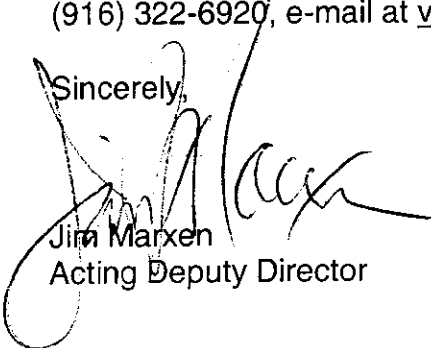
To improve outreach efforts, DTSC is working with the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) as it develops its Environmental Justice Strategy Plan. Cal/EPA will conduct a series of public workshops that will serve as a means to capture specific community and geographic issues and concerns for DTSC's final policy.

In the meantime, DTSC is continuing to implement environmental justice in its decision-making process. A major element of this effort is the development of regional assessments of communities where environmental justice is an issue. DTSC will identify regional environmental issues, communication mechanisms and demographic data that will improve understanding, coordination and communication between DTSC and those communities.

As I mentioned, we continue soliciting comments on the policy, and updates will be available to the public via the DTSC Web site (www.dtsc.ca.gov)

If you have any questions regarding the policy or program, please contact either Kim Rhodes, Environmental Justice Coordinator at (916) 255-3651, e-mail at krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov, or Vanessa Byrd, Chief, Education and Outreach Unit at (916) 322-6920, e-mail at vbyrd@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


Jim Marxen
Acting Deputy Director

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.